

## China-India row worries U.S.

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States expressed concern Friday that troop reinforcements along the China-India border could provoke conflict and said it urged the two countries to resolve their dispute through direct talks. State Department spokesman Charles Redman told reporters "there have been unilateral movements on both sides" in the area where China, India and Bhutan share a border. He declined to provide details but said "our concern is that any increase in troop strength in that remote area adds to the tension and the possibility of conflict." China acknowledged Friday that it had moved troops along its disputed border with India. Tan Xianzu, foreign affairs director of the Tibet region, told Reuters in Lhasa that the movements were partly in response to Indian air and ground intrusions into disputed territory between Tibet and the Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh. The United States has discussed the potential for violence with China and India and both countries "have expressed the intention to exercise restraint and to solve the border issue peacefully," Redman said.

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King sends good wishes to W. Germany

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Friday sent a cable to West German President Richard Von Weizsaecker congratulating him on his country's national day. In his cable King Hussein wished the West German president continued good health and happiness and the West German people further progress and prosperity.

Holiday announced

AMMAN (Petra) — All government departments and public institutions in Jordan will be closed for four days in the coming week on the occasion of Eid Al Fitr, the feast that marks the end of Ramadan. A statement from the Prime Minister said that government offices and public institutions would close on Wednesday May 27 and re-open on Sunday, May 31 to mark the occasion.

Arab convicted of Rome attack

ROME (AP) — A Palestinian was convicted and sentenced to 15 years in prison Thursday on charges of firing a rocket at the Jordanian embassy in Rome. Hussein Shafei Mohammad, 23, was convicted in the April 3, 1985 attack with an anti-tank rocket launcher that damaged a private apartment on the fourth floor of the embassy building. No one was injured.

Poll shows support rising for Likud

TEL AVIV (AP) — The Likud bloc rose in popularity during a month dominated by bitter government debate over an international peace conference, while support for the Labour Party remained unchanged, according to a poll published Friday. The debate over the proposed Middle East peace conference has caused a deep split in the Labour-Likud coalition government, but Likud has rejected Labour demands for early elections. Support for Likud rose from 24 per cent in April to 27 per cent in May, according to the poll conducted by the Smith research centre for the Jerusalem Post newspaper. Labour held steady at 41 per cent, the poll indicated. It also said the number of undecided voters increased from 3.5 per cent in April to five per cent in May, the highest in recent times.

U.N. force to remain in Golan

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Syria and Israel have accepted Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar's proposal to keep U.N. troops in the Golan Heights another six months, until Nov. 30. In a written report, Mr. Perez de Cuellar told the Security Council that the continued presence of the disengagement observer force, known by the acronym UNDOF, was essential. It was set up in May 1974 to supervise a ceasefire called for by the council between Israeli and Syrian forces. "Despite the present quiet in the Israel-Syria sector, the situation in the Middle East as a whole continues to be potentially dangerous and is likely to remain so unless and until a comprehensive settlement covering all aspects of the Middle East problem can be reached," Mr. Perez de Cuellar wrote.

## INSIDE

- U.S. delays jet sales to Saudi Arabia, page 2
- Jordan and Kuwait formalise trade accord, page 3
- U.S. policy in the Gulf aimed at preventing Soviet influence and ending Iran-Iraq war, page 4
- Unemployment becoming a way of life in England, page 5
- Tough time for France in post-Platini era, page 6
- Omani banks expect difficulties, page 7
- Fijian governor dissolves parliament, page 8

# Jordan Times

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## Paris club reschedules Egypt debt

PARIS (AP) — Egypt's Western creditor governments agreed Friday to reschedule about \$12 billion of the country's debt falling due between January 1987 and June 1988, diplomatic sources said Friday. The amount includes arrears and covers 100 per cent of principal and interest payments falling due in the consolidation period, the sources said, speaking on condition of anonymity. Details were not immediately available. The rescheduling accord satisfies most of the debt relief measures sought by the Egyptian delegation at the two-day meeting, participants said. The Paris club is an informal group of representatives from creditor governments that meets regularly to examine debt-rescheduling requests from cash-strapped nations. Egypt's total foreign debt is almost \$40 billion. Last week the International Monetary Fund (IMF) accepted a comprehensive programme of economic changes that cleared the way for \$325 million in IMF credits.

## Israelis boost presence in 'security zone' and start destroying village

Gemayel appeals for Security Council action

SIDON, Lebanon (Agencies) — Israel has reinforced its military presence at the self-declared "security zone" in South Lebanon and started destroying a village nearby, independent sources and residents said Friday.

"There are more (Israeli) troops than usual in and around villages in the security zone," said one. Israeli reinforcements had been spotted near Kfar Shabat village, 10 kilometres from the border, the sources, quoted by Reuter, said.

An Israeli military source in Tel Aviv said several houses were demolished in the village of Armona as the Israeli army went on alert against an expected escalation in guerrilla attacks.

Beirut Radio stations also reported that Israel was implementing a threat to raze the village.

President Amin Gemayel on Friday requested prompt U.N. Security Council action to prevent Israel from carrying out its threat.

A presidential spokesman said

Marouni responsible for guerrilla attacks against Israel from Armona.

During the night Israeli warplanes staged mock raids over Palestinian refugee camps in the southern port cities of Sidon and Tyre.

Helicopter gunships dropped

parachute flares and waves of fighter bombers buzzed the camps, police said. Guerrillas sounded air raid sirens and opened up with anti-aircraft fire.

Israeli gunboats cruised in the Mediterranean off the coast of both cities as the jets crashed the sound barrier during the mock raids, according to the police.

Beirut newspapers published an appeal from the people of Armona to U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar to stop "barbaric Israeli practices."

Amal chief Berri spoke by telephone with President Gemayel Thursday night about events in the south, breaking his 14-month boycott of the Christian leader.

Official sources said Mr. Gemayel asked the 5,800-man U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon to send observers to Armona.

## Israelis shoot and kill Arab in Gaza

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli soldiers shot dead a Palestinian in the occupied Gaza Strip Friday after he allegedly set off a roadside charge, reports said.

The incident took place near the town of Khan Yunis, south of Gaza City.

Israel Radio said there were no reports of injuries or damages from the roadside bomb blast, which occurred Friday morning near the Jewish settlement of Nezarim.

"I would expect talks with the Soviets, an early session, perhaps in the course of next month," he told reporters.

He reiterated Mr. Shultz's position that the United States approaches the concept of an international conference "carefully and sceptically" and with the firm resolve that it lead immediately to direct negotiations between Israel and a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

Mr. Murphy said the talks would take place "in hallowed neutral ground" but refused to provide more details.

Washington is demanding that Moscow establish diplomatic relations with Israel and liberalise emigration for Soviet Jews, among other things, to "qualify" for participation in the peace process.

"If this process is going to work it's going to have a ticket of admission for everybody," Mr. Murphy said.

Secretary of State George Shultz said last weekend Moscow could play a constructive role in bringing peace in the Middle East but so far has only been a spoiler.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, on a trip to Washington last weekend, met Soviet Ambassador Yuri Dubinin to discuss whether Moscow would be willing to play a limited role in a conference, if one were held.

Mr. Murphy recently returned from a 10-day trip to the Gulf

## Murphy to discuss Mideast conference with Polyakov

U.S. senators, among them Dole, reject Soviet role.

Kissinger has worries and perplexities about parley.

Claverius makes 'progress' in Cairo • Pickering,

assailing Israeli measures, outlines conference ideas

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Assistant U.S. Secretary of State Richard Murphy has said he would bold talks soon with Soviet officials on prospects for an international Middle East peace conference.

"In recent months there's been an encouraging convergence of views regarding an international conference that moves us closer we believe to direct negotiations," he said.

He reiterated Mr. Shultz's position that the United States approaches the concept of an international conference "carefully and sceptically" and with the firm resolve that it lead immediately to direct negotiations between Israel and a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

Mr. Murphy denied that the United States tilted in favour of Mr. Peres, who has threatened to

the Soviet Union should be excluded from any Mideast peace conference unless it recognises Israel.

The Senators, led by California Republican Pete Wilson, introduced a resolution that would put the Senate on record against Soviet incursion in an international meeting over Mideast peace.

All but two of the Senators were Republicans, who are a minority in the Senate. There was no indication when the resolution would be considered for a vote.

"It is the U.S. position that any outside participants in any international Mideast peace conference must acknowledge the sovereignty of all Middle East countries willing to settle their differences peacefully," Mr. Wilson told the Senate.

"The Soviet Union, by severing diplomatic ties with the state

Union and other major powers

would play in a conference.

He also declined to rule out the possibility that the PLO might, with Soviet encouragement, approve a Palestinian delegation to the talks that was not directly affiliated with the organisation.

His comments, in a news conference and conversation afterwards, indicated that major differences remain to be overcome before any peace conference is convened, but the Soviet leaders were taking pains not to set firm preconditions, the New York Times said.

Eighteen U.S. Senators, including Senate Republican leader Bob Dole, said Wednesday the Soviet Union should be excluded from any Mideast peace conference unless it recognises Israel.

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"The only tilt the United States has is toward peace and keeping the peace process moving," Mr. Murphy said.

The New York Times quoted a Soviet spokesman as saying on Wednesday that a Middle East peace conference must be more than an "umbrella" for face-to-face negotiations, and that the Palestine Liberation Organisation should determine who would represent Palestinian interests at a meeting.

But the spokesman, Boris Pyadashov, said Soviet officials were prepared to be flexible on details of the role the Soviet

(Continued on page 3)

## Reagan defends American military presence in Gulf

MAYPORT, Florida (Agencies)

U.S. President Ronald Reagan, mourning those killed in the attack on the USS Stark, said Friday an American naval presence in the oil-rich Gulf region was essential to world security.

"We're a hostile power ever to dominate this strategic region and its resources, it would become a chokepoint for freedom and of our allies and our own," he said.

Thirty-seven sailors were killed and 22 wounded Sunday when the frigate Stark came under an Iraqi missile attack as it patrolled the waters of the Gulf — part of the war zone in the nearly seven-year-old conflict between Iran and Iraq.

In a letter of condolence to Mr. Reagan, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, who has agreed in principle to pay compensation, termed the attack a "grievous and unintentional incident."

"I would like to express to you once again my condolences and feelings of grief," said President Hussein. "May I also ask you to

convey my heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims as they bid their dear ones a last farewell."

Mr. Reagan, who was accompanied by his wife Nancy at a memorial service for the dead crewmembers at the crippled vessel's homeport, said their valour helped preserve peace and freedom.

"There is a reason why, since 1949, American ships have patrolled the Gulf," he said. "It is a region that is a crossroads for three continents and the starting place for the oil that is the lifeblood of much of the world economy, especially those of our allies in Europe."

Mr. Reagan, who has ordered the seven-ship naval task force of which the Stark was a part to protect 11 Kuwaiti tankers and a joint air cover for shipping in the strategic waterway.

Pentagon spokesman Bob Sims said no decision had been made to send U.S. navy jet

(Continued on page 3)

## Kimche to leave U.S. without testifying

WASHINGTON (R) — A former top Israeli diplomat said he would leave the United States without testifying on Friday before the grand jury investigating the Iran arms scandal.

Mr. Kimche, who played a key role in initiating the first arms shipments to Iran in 1985, told reporters he was leaving the country to return to Israel.

Mr. Kimche, the former director general of the Israeli foreign ministry, said he would not be testifying Friday, but that his testimony later was under consideration.

Western leaders want to adopt a formal response by June 11 when NATO foreign ministers meet in Reykjavik, Iceland. The United States has, however, hinted it could go ahead with a deal even without a European response.

Referring to the "double zero option" under which Moscow and Washington would eliminate nuclear missiles in the medium and shorter ranges, Mr. Mitterrand said:

"It is a good initiative by the Soviet and American leaders to have agreed on this."

He said France had no preconditions to accepting the proposal, though he said it would be logical to continue the disarmament process with new categories of weapons.

"When you disarm by steps you cannot set preconditions for the whole," he added.

Mr. Mitterrand's announce-

## Israelis seek to set up new W. Bank settlement

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies)

Jewish settlers on Friday sought to establish a new settlement in the occupied West Bank and name it after an Israeli boy who was found dead in a cave on Thursday, reports said.

According to an Israeli army spokesman, the settlers were ordered out of an area near the Aravah village of Ajia, northwest of the Elon Moreh settlement near Nablus.

The eight-year-old Israeli boy who was found killed on Thursday was from the Elon Moreh settlement. The settlers who tried to establish the new settlement on Friday were said to be from the extremist Gush Emunim Jewish organisation.

The search for the boy's killers

continued Friday.

Israel Radio quoted Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir as saying Israel should increase its civilian settlements in the occupied territories.

Some 64,000 Jewish settlers now live in the West Bank and Gaza Strip along with 1.4 million

## Fired defence chief denies plotting against Aquino

MANILA (AP) — Opposition chief Juan Ponce Enrile on Friday denied plotting to destabilise the government.

Earlier, Mr. Enrile denied he was plotting moves to destabilise the government following the electoral defeat of his Grand Alliance for Democracy. Chief of staff Fidel Ramos warned Thursday that unidentified extremists were recruiting former soldiers for new moves against Mrs. Aquino.

"We have no plans to destabilise the government," Mr. Enrile told the private, right-wing radio station DZEC. "In fact, we ran for the senate to help stabilise the country. If anyone is creating destabilisation, it is those people who cheated. That is the source of the people's anger."

The left-leaning newspaper Malaya quoted unnamed administration campaign sources as saying at least five unidentified alliance candidates had sent "feelers" to the government distancing themselves from opposition "hooligans" trying to force a showdown with Mrs. Aquino.

They hoisted and flashed "thumbs down" signs when Mr. Enrile referred to "President Aquino." He stopped in mid-sentence and changed the reference to "Malacanang" — the

## PNC official apologises to Rabat for Polisario speech

RABAT (Agencies) — The chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Palestine National Council (PNC) has apologised for a speech by a Polisario official at the council's recent meeting in Algiers, according to the official Moroccan News Agency MAP.

Khaled Al Hassan said in a statement on Thursday on Radio-Mediterranean International, which broadcasts from Tangiers, Morocco, that the Polisario committee "broke with ethics, reason, policy and diplomacy."

Polisario guerrillas have been fighting Moroccan soldiers for the past decade for the former Spanish Sahara, which has been annexed by Morocco.

After the speech by Mohammad Abdul Aziz, secretary general of the Polisario movement, comparing Moroccan presence in the Sahara to the Israeli occupation of Palestine, Morocco withdrew its delegation from the council and said it would boycott any

# U.S. delays Saudi jet sale

WASHINGTON (R) — The Reagan administration is delaying action on its plan to sell new warplanes to Saudi Arabia in the face of congressional anger at Saudi actions following the Iraqi attack on a U.S. frigate.

Opponents of the plan are using the alleged failure of the Saudis to force down the Iraqi Mirage that attacked the USS Stark to try to get Congress to veto the sale of 12 F-15 fighters worth \$500 million.

White House officials Thursday acknowledged they had a problem in their hands when they said that informal notification to Congress on the sale had been put off, citing the current political climate.

President Spokesman Marin Fitzwater had said on Wednesday that notification would be sent to Congress next week, setting in motion a process that would inevitably involve a bruising fight.

But he told reporters Thursday there was no timetable, adding, "after consultation with Congress we will send it up at the most propitious time."

That time seemed further off Thursday as Senate Democratic majority leader Robert Byrd

voiced opposition to the sale and four senators introduced legislation to block it, citing the alleged failure of Saudi jets to force down the Iraqi Mirage.

Administration officials said U.S. officials on the spot had asked that two Saudi F-15s that were in the air when the Stark was hit by Iraqi missiles intercept the attacking plane and force it down on Saudi territory.

The Saudi pilots were said to be eager to go into action, but before they could get proper authority from the ground, the Iraqi plane was well on the way to its home base and the Saudi planes were running low on fuel.

American officials had no complaint with the Saudi performance.

## Murphy: Iran unlikely to attack U.S.-flag bearing ships

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — A top U.S. official, trying to allay fears about plans to bring Kuwaiti ships under American flags, has said Iran would be unlikely to attack such vessels out of concern of provoking a war with the United States.

Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy also said it would be a "major strategic defeat" (for the United States) should a power hostile to us, such as the Soviets or such as Iran is at this time, increases its power and influence" in the Gulf.

The United States has agreed to bring 11 Kuwaiti oil tankers under the U.S. flag in an effort to protect them from Iranian attacks in the Gulf.

While the plan has been under discussion since late December, it has raised new questions of risk, particularly in Congress, since last Sunday's attack on the U.S. navy frigate Stark by Iraqi missiles that killed 37 sailors.

The Senate Thursday, voted 91 to 5 to stop the administration from implementing the scheme until it submits a full security plan for U.S. and allied forces in the Gulf. But the measure cannot become law unless also passed by the House.

"There are numerous factors which suggest to us they will not attack our naval ships or American flag ships," said Mr. Murphy in a briefing to reporters, just after his return from a 10-day trip to the region.

In its nearly seven-year-old war with Iraq, Iran has not attacked U.S. ships, he noted.

"Attacks on armed military vessels would add a new dimension to the war. They would divert Iranian attention from its principle enemy, Iraq. Iran has not won that war and we think it would be reluctant to initiate actions that could provoke a second," Mr. Murphy said.

"We believe that Iran would be reluctant to engage the U.S. militarily because of concern over our response."

Mr. Murphy said Iranian officials have repeatedly stated they will not attack unless provoked.

"Where is the provocation in assuring the innocent passage of American escorted ships in international waters?" he said.

He also said the Iranians have been "scrupulous" about checking out the identity of vessels before taking any action.

Mr. Murphy was asked how a recent Iranian attack in a Soviet ship squared with his assessment of the risk to U.S. ships.

That hit was made by a lightly-armed patrol boat probably manned by members of the Iran Revolutionary Guard, a group believed to have a less unified command structure than Iran's army, air force or navy, he said.

"There is an element of unpredictability there. We don't deny it. There is a risk there. We don't deny it. That there are interests and principles at stake, we very strongly affirm," Mr. Murphy said.

The navy Thursday extended the tour of duty of one of seven U.S. warships in the Gulf to maintain a solid American presence there.

The guided missile frigate Groves, which was scheduled to return to the United States on June 15, will remain in the Gulf

until at least early August, the Defence Department said.

The Groves and Stark, which was badly damaged by two missiles fired by an Iraqi F-1 fighter jet on Sunday, are among seven U.S. navy ships in the Gulf Task Force protecting American shipping from attacks.

"We want to maintain a credible presence there," one defense official, who requested anonymity, told Reuters.

"The Stark is out of commission, and the return of the Groves as scheduled in June would have reduced us to three guided missile destroyers and one guided missile frigate in addition to the (command ship) Lasalle," the official said.

No date has been set for the Stark to return home.

Defense officials refused to say whether the navy will replace the damaged frigate in preparing the task force to protect 11 Kuwaiti tankers which will soon fly the U.S. flag.

Iran has been attacking shipping connected with Kuwait be-

cause it claims the Gulf state supports Iraq.

Congressional concern has mounted as the United States moves toward providing armed escort for tankers in the Gulf but Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger said the country must face up to its responsibility.

The Senate has called on President Ronald Reagan to inform Congress of the risks of growing U.S. involvement in the Gulf.

But Mr. Reagan declared Thursday he had no intention of letting the attack on the guided missile frigate force the United States to abandon plans to increase protection of the Gulf's shipping.

"As we grieve the loss of our brave sons, let no one doubt our resolve to protect our vital interests in the Gulf or anywhere else," Mr. Reagan said.

On Friday, the president and Mrs. Reagan will fly to Mayport naval station near Jacksonville, Florida, for a memorial service with relatives of the sailors killed in Sunday's raid.

## Text of Iraqi president's message to Reagan

WASHINGTON (R) — Following is the text of a letter to President Reagan from Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. It was obtained by Reuters from sources who asked not to be identified.

Excellency:

"On the occasion of the funeral ceremony of the victims lost in the grievous and unintentional incident that has happened to the American frigate Stark, I would like to express to you once again my condolences and feelings of grief.

"May I also ask you to convey my heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims as they bid their dear ones last farewell. All the Iraqis and I feel most profoundly the sorrow of moments such as these, since we have ourselves lost a great many of our dear ones in the war which has been raging for seven years while the Iranian government still persists in perpetrating death and destruction and in rejecting our appeals and those of the international community for a just and

honourable peace an objective no doubt that is long desired by all those who believe in God, and in justice and brotherhood amongst peoples.

"We do not misrepresent the truth and its very essence when we stress, with firm conviction, that sorrow and regret are not enough to reflect the tragedy of the victims that have fallen as a result of this war and the confusion and complexity of the loss of people from other countries who were in the area for various reasons.

"Rest assured, that the grief which you feel is a result of the loss of your sons is our grief too.

"Our humane principles and the sentiments of friendship everywhere, including the people of the United States whose friendship we wish to preserve, make us sad to see anybody hurt by this war or by the immediate or long-term consequences it entails.

"Amongst the victims are these sons of yours whom you are bidding farewell today. Here we are witnessing the circumstances of the war become even more complicated, the number of victims grow higher and higher, and the grave and painful consequences get more exacerbated because of the intransigence and anomalous stand of Iran.

"This makes it incumbent upon us to carry on tirelessly with our efforts to stop this bloody human tragedy which has claimed the lives of hundreds of thousands, burnt with its flames the people

of Iraq and Iran, caused anxiety to many others in the region and the world at large, and caused through its confusion and complexity the loss of people from other countries who were in the area for various reasons.

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"Our humane principles and the sentiments of friendship everywhere, including the people of the United States whose friendship we wish to preserve, make us sad to see anybody hurt by this war or by the immediate or long-term consequences it entails.

"I as well as all Iraqis share with you your grief in moments such as these and wish we could do anything that might alleviate the grief of the victims' families. Please accept our most deeply felt condolences."

The letter, dated May 21, is signed "Saddam Hussein, president of the Republic of Iraq."

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"Rest assured, that the grief which you feel is a result of the loss of your sons is our grief too.

"Our humane principles and the sentiments of friendship everywhere, including the people of the United States whose friendship we wish to preserve, make us sad to see anybody hurt by this war or by the immediate or long-term consequences it entails.

"I as well as all Iraqis share with you your grief in moments such as these and wish we could do anything that might alleviate the grief of the victims' families. Please accept our most deeply felt condolences."

The letter, dated May 21, is signed "Saddam Hussein, president of the Republic of Iraq."

"This makes it incumbent upon us to carry on tirelessly with our efforts to stop this bloody human tragedy which has claimed the lives of hundreds of thousands, burnt with its flames the people

of Iraq and Iran, caused anxiety to many others in the region and the world at large, and caused through its confusion and complexity the loss of people from other

## Crown Prince begins working tour of Britain

LONDON (Petra) — Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath began a working visit to Britain on Friday. During the visit, Prince Hassan will meet with a number of senior British officials to discuss questions of interest of Britain and Jordan, including cooperation in a number of fields.

Their Royal Highnesses arrived in London on Thursday evening. Upon their arrival at Heathrow Airport, they were greeted by a number of British officials and Jordan's ambassador and embassy staff.

Prince Hassan will take part in

a number of cultural, scientific and industrial activities that will take place during his visit.

Prince Hassan is expected to deliver an address on June 2 in which he will outline Jordanian economic development and the country's five-year national development plan.

In another address to the Anglo-Jordanian Friendship Society on May 28, Prince Hassan is expected to outline Jordan's policies on the regional and international levels and His Majesty King Hussein's endeavours for convening an international Middle East peace conference.

## Rifai to visit Tunisia

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifai will pay an official visit to Tunisia in June, a report in the local Arabic daily Al Rai said on Friday.

During the visit, Mr. Rifai will hold talks with his Tunisian counterpart Rashid Sfar on means of bolstering their bilateral relations. He is expected to discuss the political situation in the region.

### Preparations for trade fair under way

Preparations are going ahead for organising a Jordanian trade fair in Tunis in the coming month.

Jordan's Ambassador to Tunisia Talal Al Hassan discussed these preparations with the country's prime minister, Rashid Sfar, with whom he also reviewed bilateral cooperation in economic and trade affairs.

Similar talks were held on Thursday between the ambassador and the Tunisian Foreign Minister Abdul Hadi Al Mabrouk.

## Abbadi returns after visits to Morocco, S. Arabia

AMMAN (Petra) — Under Secretary of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Salam Al Abbadi Friday returned home at the end of visits to Morocco and Saudi Arabia.

In Morocco, Dr. Abbadi took part in various Islamic meetings organised by the Moroccan Ministry of Awqaf. Also taking part in those meetings were His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco and a number of Muslim scholars and ulamas from different parts of the world.

Dr. Abbadi, in cooperation with his Moroccan counterpart, worked out a draft programme of action aimed at implementing the agreement concluded between Jordan and Morocco. Under the agreement, both countries will cooperate in various Islamic fields, including the publishing of Islamic heritage, exchange of visits by ulamas and intellectuals, exchange of publications, and

holding Islamic meetings and cultural exhibitions.

Both countries will also ex-

change expertise in the field of waqf legislations and developing waqf property and investing them in the interest of both countries.

In Saudi Arabia, Dr. Abbadi attended meetings of the scientific committee, set up by the Jeddah-based Organisation of Islamic Conference's (OIC) Fiqh (Islamic law) Academy. The academy was entrusted by the OIC to prepare a plan, designed to present Islamic law in a new and integrated form, in order to facilitate presentation and writing methods.

This is an important project in the field of Islamic law study and ensuring adherence to its provisions, in a manner commensurate with the centrism of Islamic religion and its simplicity and leniency.

## Murphy to discuss Mideast conference with Polyakov

(Continued from page 1)

of Israel and by systematically denying exit visas to Soviet Jews who wish to live and work in Israel, clearly does not meet the criteria established to participate in an international peace conference on the Mideast," Mr. Wilson added.

In Cairo, U.S. envoy Vat Cuverius said the United States and Egypt had made significant progress in talks on ways of achieving Middle East peace, including the issue of an international conference.

Mr. Cuverius said he and Foreign Minister Ahmad Esmat Abdul Meguid covered a wide range of issues at their meeting.

"We have seen some significant progress and we shall continue," he said, adding that the subjects under discussion included an international Middle East peace conference.

In New York, former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger expressed serious doubts about the wisdom of convening a multi-national Middle East peace conference at the present time.

Mr. Kissinger said that without clear understanding of procedure and agenda such an initiative would not be in Israel's best interests.

Dr. Kissinger, in remarks he described as "worries" and "perplexities" but not his "final pronouncements," cited the brief remaining tenure of a pre-occupied Reagan administration as a main reason a peace conference should not be pursued.

"I have great difficulty understanding the urgency of starting a negotiating process in the last 18 months of an administration when (it) cannot guarantee what its successors will do," Dr. Kis-

singer told the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organisations.

"If there is anything certain in this world, it is that the conference will deadlock, so that this administration will not be the one that makes the ultimate decisions as to the conduct of the conference," he said.

On Thursday, U.S. Ambassador to Israel Thomas Pickering gave the first detailed description by an American official of the proposed conference.

Mr. Pickering told a Hebrew University symposium that Jordan, Egypt and the United States had agreed on major elements of the proposed conference.

The ambassador described the peace talks as:

"A conference which will invite the parties to form geographical, bilateral committees to negotiate;

"A conference which cannot impose solutions nor veto agreements reached bilaterally;

"Face to face negotiations in which Palestinian representation or Palestinian representatives will participate in a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation;

"Negotiations in which the participants will be expected to

## Reagan defends U.S. naval presence in Gulf

(Continued from page 1)

fighters over the Gulf and that "no substantive discussions" had been held with any other countries about joint measures to protect shipping from attacks by Iran and Iraq.

"If there are offers from other countries, we would be glad to talk to them about that," Sims told reporters.

But the Pentagon spokesman said the United States would not put an aircraft carrier into the Gulf. He said air cover could be provided, if necessary, from U.S. aircraft carriers outside the Gulf.

The White House, meanwhile,

said a U.S.-Iraqi committee will inquire into the missile attack on the Stark.

White House spokesman Marvin Fitzwater said the committee's inquiry into the attack would take place in parallel with the work of the U.S. navy board of inquiry.

In Dhaka, Bangladesh, a Soviet official said Friday the Soviet Union would oppose any U.S. move to increase its naval presence in the Gulf.

"We are against increasing U.S. military presence in the Gulf or anywhere else in the world," Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Rogachev told reporters on his arrival in Dhaka for a four-



KING ATTENDS FRIDAY PRAYERS

His Majesty King Hussein attended Friday prayers at the Faiz Mosque and listened to a sermon, presented by Chief Islamic Justice Sheikh Mohammad Mheilan, in his sermon, Sheikh Mheilan called for unifying the Arab and Muslim worlds through discarding differences and unifying ranks. Sheikh Mheilan praised the efforts made by His Majesty King Hussein to reduce Arab differences and enhance Arab solidarity.

## Palestine refugees need more aid, Dudin tells U.N. fact-finding group

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Marwan Dudin has called on the international community to help provide more aid to the Palestinian refugees living in the Arab host countries of the Middle East.

He said that the educational and health services provided to the refugees by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for Palestine refugees were not sufficient and more efforts should be made to raise funds for the agency's humanitarian work.

The minister was addressing a United Nations information delegation now visiting Jordan in the course of a tour of the Arab region at UNRWA's invitation to study the conditions of the refugees and the agency's services.

The Jordanian government spared no effort in providing help to the refugees, to help UNRWA with its task and continues to provide care for the displaced Palestinian people; both those forced by the "Israelis" to leave their homes in 1948 and following the 1967 war, the minister noted.

At present UNRWA and the Jordanian government cooperate in providing assistance to the refugees who are being housed in 13 different camps in the Kingdom, Mr. Dudin added.

The minister reviewed the developments of the Palestinian problem and said that the international community which created the state of Israel is responsible also for creating the refugee problem and the subsequent suffering of the displaced people of Palestine who now inhabit these camps.

Mr. Dudin also spoke about Jordan's peace efforts and the country's call for convening an international peace conference to implement the United Nations

Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Marwan Dudin meets with an UNRWA sponsored fact-finding group, consisting primarily of journalists. The group is conducting a tour of UNRWA refugee camps in the Middle East (Petra photo)

Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

Dr. Ahmad Qatanani, the under secretary of the Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs, and other ministry officials attended the meeting along with several UNRWA officials.

Mr. Dudin also spoke about the Jordanian government's five-year development plan for the Israeli-held Arab territories.

He said that Jordan has not ceased helping the Arab population since the 1967 occupation and the new development plan for the occupied areas is designed to implement projects and provide assistance through a defined programme benefitting the largest possible sector of the population.

Mr. Dudin also spoke about Jordan's peace efforts and the country's call for convening an international peace conference to implement the United Nations

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## Jordan, Kuwait sign accord on technical, economic cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and Kuwait have signed and exchanged documents ratifying a bilateral agreement on cooperation in economic, technical and trade affairs reached by the two countries last October.

Under Secretary of the Ministry of Industry and Trade Mohammad Saqqaf and Kuwait's ambassador to Jordan Ibrahim Al Bahri signed and exchanged documents for the agreement which was concluded during a visit to Kuwait by Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifai accompanied by a large government delegation.

Following the signing of the agreement, Mr. Saqqaf told the Jordan News Agency Petra that the agreement manifests the strong ties between the two countries and their desire to promote bilateral cooperation in trade, economic and technical fields.

The agreement provides for diversifying and increasing the volume of trade between Kuwait and Jordan and the removal of all obstacles to trade, including the exemption from customs duty of agricultural and industrial products from either country.

The two sides agree to encourage the organisation of trade fairs to promote the marketing of products from Kuwait and Jordan in each other's country, to exchange visits by official and unofficial delegations and to provide each other with expertise and information related to the promotion of trade.

According to Mr. Saqqaf, the two sides also agreed on facilitating investments by Jordanian

and Kuwaiti businessmen in the two countries, launching joint ventures, both public and the private, and offering preferential treatment to each other's goods, investments and profits.

The agreement provides for the transfer of profits, capital and interest on capital between the two sides and providing incentives for investment of capital in each other's country.

He said that the two sides agreed to set up a joint committee to follow up the implementation of the agreement, to remove obstacles, and to provide means for promoting bilateral cooperation.

This committee, he added, is expected to meet in Amman shortly to begin implementing the agreement.



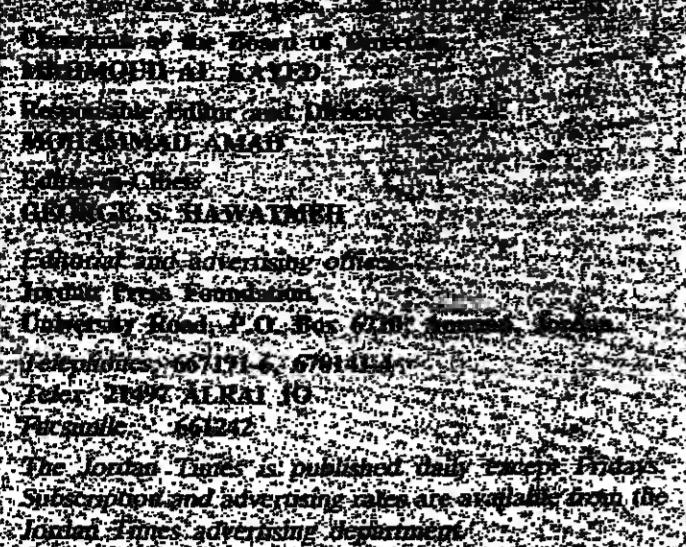
Under Secretary of the Ministry of Industry and Trade Mohammad Saqqaf and Kuwait's ambassador to Jordan Ibrahim Al Bahri sign and exchange documents for a technical and economic cooperation agreement negotiated by Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifai in an earlier visit to Kuwait (Petra photo)

## Mabrouk

John Boteler, former TV critic for the Jordan Times, phoned from London yesterday with the good news that his wife, Tessa, gave birth to a 10-lb baby boy on Thursday evening, May 21, 1987.

The couple named their son Jack, both being extra happy that he arrived late enough to be born a Gemini rather than a Taurus (Taurus children are supposed to be more difficult to bring up than Gemini).

Both Tessa and Jack are doing well, and they are expected to leave hospital in a few days. Thousand mabrouk.



## ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Friday's

## Al Ra'i: Stark's fate and U.S. reaction

WE had hoped that the attack on the U.S. frigate "Stark" and the loss of life of 37 marines would open the eyes of the U.S. administration to the need to do something for ending the Gulf war which has caused the loss of hundreds of thousands of people and untold destruction. We had hoped that the United States would shoulder its responsibility as a superpower and help bring about peace and security in the Gulf region. But unfortunately reactions coming out of Washington indicate that the United States is still turning its back to the Gulf war, and still failing to make any serious moves towards ending the conflict. We have heard U.S. Secretary of Defence Caspar Weinberger's statement in which he said that the Western world is keen on confronting tyranny and ending violence world-wide, and that the U.S. will continue to work towards helping to re-establish security in the Gulf region. But this statement clearly contradicts Washington's supply of arms to the aggressors in the Gulf war and those who are directly responsible for prolonging the conflict. We can hardly understand how Western interests will remain intact as long as the Iran-Iraq war continues to rage in the Gulf area, and being fuelled by the United States and its allies.

## Al Dustour: Still hoping

THE friends of Israel in the United States and the Zionist lobby in Washington normally spare no effort in their drive to safeguard the interests of the Jewish state and in marring the image of the Arab Nation. This time these agents have been active in Washington, trying to put pressure on the U.S. administration to abort plans for selling American warplanes to Saudi Arabia. Their pretext now is that Saudi Arabia has failed to prevent the attack on the U.S. frigate Stark by not intercepting Iraqi warplanes on their way to bomb the vessel last Sunday. A group of U.S. senators has submitted a draft resolution to the Senate for banning the shipment of planes to Saudi Arabia, thus doing service to Israel which they want to remain strong and capable of dominating the Arab region. This is clearly an irresponsible action on the part of the U.S. senators, and points to the fact that they are ignorant of the real situation in the Middle East. The senators submitted their bill despite their full knowledge of the details of the unfortunate event, and despite Iraq's readiness to offer compensation. The event has clearly offered Israel's friends in the United States a golden opportunity to provide another valuable service to the Jewish state.

## Sawt Al Shaab: Tension escalates in Mideast

STATEMENTS on the situation in the Middle East coupled by Israeli and American moves in the region, all point to the unwelcome events that would take place in the region in the coming few days. Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and Syrian leaders have lately issued warnings against the danger of escalation of tension. These coincided with U.S. navy moves in the eastern Mediterranean and Gulf regions, and Israel's massing of troops near the Lebanese borders. Observers see in these moves indications to dangerous developments which the Middle East region is about to witness. At the same time Israeli information media has been active in reporting repeated resistance activity in southern Lebanon against Israeli forces and bragging about security for the northern occupied Palestinian territories. This is clearly intended to prepare the Israeli public and the world community to accepting a fresh Israeli aggression and a new adventure in Lebanon. Perhaps through such aggression, Israel hopes to destroy all hopes for convening an international Middle East peace conference.

Thursday's

## Al Ra'i: Gorbachev calls for peace

SOVIET leader Mikhail Gorbachev has once again warned against the explosive situation in the Middle East and called on the international community to bring about peace in the region. Gorbachev said there is need for holding an international conference and added there can be no return to Soviet-Israeli relations unless positive steps have been made towards re-establishing a just peace in the Middle East. Gorbachev's statements put an end to Israeli-campaigns and propaganda, claiming that the Soviet Union was holding contacts with Israel to re-establish relations with the Jewish state. Gorbachev's call on the international community to help establish peace is directed mostly to the United States in view of Washington's continued support and backing for Israel, and because such policy is regarded as responsible for the delay in achieving an Arab-Israeli settlement. The Soviet leader's reference to the explosive situation is clearly designed to draw the attention of the U.S. administration to the need of intensive efforts to defuse tension in the region. Continued U.S. support for the Israeli aggressors is bound to increase tension and fuel the flaming situation.

## Al Dustour: Involving superpowers in Gulf

THE massing of superpower naval forces in the Gulf waters came as a direct result of Iran's escalation of tension and its pursuit of hostilities and war in that region. Iran is trying to involve the superpowers in the Gulf conflict after it had failed by all other means to achieve its dreams through occupying Arab territory or imposing domination over the Gulf region. The involvement of superpowers and probably other forces is also designed by Tehran to cover up for its unscrupulousness in taking steps towards ending the war with Iraq. Such stand is bound to bring in more danger and involve other nations in the conflict. But the superpowers would not allow Iran to fulfill its dreams or achieve its objectives and sooner or later Iran will find itself surrounded by fleets which it cannot confront, and so this escalation of hostilities would defeat its own purpose and render Tehran's efforts futile. Perhaps the presence of superpower fleets could indirectly bring an end to the Gulf conflict which has raged for nearly seven years and caused so much destruction and loss of life. We hope that Tehran will realize that after all it cannot achieve its military dreams in the Gulf and that the chance is open now for taking the course of peace.

## View From Amman

## Education: Policy proposal II

EDUCATION has been the most important force for change for Jordan and indeed for the entire Arab World: A force that has unleashed vast energies thus far untapped. The accomplishment thus far has been admirable and the progress in material quantitative terms has been more than impressive. We can assert with some confidence that our societies, once pastoral and peasant societies, have changed positively and may now be ready for the next stage of development. A stage that is to be anticipated with confidence and not feared as an unknown. A stage we need to prepare for with much love and care for what we are talking about is not only the future of our youth but our national survival as well. That is why the policy or policies which we must pursue should be flexible enough and principled enough to withstand the painful changes we must undergo, or at least watch our youth undergo. Change almost always involves pain and we must prepare for that. It is like leaving a fine old house in which one grew up, leaving behind the comfort, the familiar rooms, the pleasant surroundings. In the back of our mind we must remember that we either change or perish.

The policy we seek should be based on the following criteria (in addition to those mentioned in my article of May 16, 1987): First, it must accommodate useful ideas, tools and data from whatever source they may originate. There is nothing wrong with being eclectic, if the choice is studied and refined. Education should not be ideologically motivated but should rather closely relate to life. It should teach desirable social values: The values of time and space, respect for others' opinions, respect for manual as well as mental labour... etc. Thus it should relate the school to the world around it and the appropriate technology for that world. To instill a true

respect for labour and the idea that creation is not necessarily confined to abstract thought. In short, it should be man and material centred without necessarily abandoning spiritual values.

Second, it should relate the school to the universe of knowledge and science. The modern Western world and the coming world of the twenty-first century witness new revolutions in knowledge almost on a daily basis. It is here that two ancillary criteria must be emphasized: a) We should teach the how as much as we teach the why, if not more. b) We should develop the capacity for self-education on a life-time basis. If our youth are to be asked to explore and exploit the ever unfolding universe of things and ideas, they must be equipped with the ability for self-education.

Third, the value of the democratic and liberal exchange of ideas should be emphasized. Though some may think we are injecting a political factor into an otherwise purely educational matter, nothing is further from the truth. As our experience and the experience of many other nations have demonstrated, no genuine progress can take place — though change may occur — without democratic upbringings. Innovation, technological advances, and creativity cannot and will not happen in the absence of a true liberal and democratic climate. Without participation there is no civic responsibility. We simply cannot out-pace ourselves or create while denied the right to be consulted, the right to constructively criticize and the right to explore and discuss every subject under the sun. The mind of a youth must be allowed to roam and wander so it can appreciate and compare. Religion, as the experience in most Western nations has shown, has not suffered, and in fact the reverse has occurred. Even the discussion of the concept of the death of God — which

incidentally, this writer does not subscribe to — a concept advanced by the German philosopher, Nietzsche, has had the effect of shifting out the true believers from the bigots. Surely we need not go so far or so fast in a short time but the point is to free the mind from the shackles of taboos and the fear of the unknown.

Fourth, all of this needs trained teachers who will be partners and helpers in this process of mind development and not simply symbols of authority. Teachers should participate with their students in team projects within the classroom and extra curricular ones; as well: They should talk to their students not at them and should help develop in them the type of self confidence and self reliance necessary for their proper development. Thus far most of our teachers are symbols of authority from whom our youth distance themselves as far as possible. The school as an ordeal to be endured must change to a vehicle that makes the process of growing up more pleasant. To accomplish this, the democratic climate we spoke of must be created early otherwise our youth will continue to view the school as they view the society at large, as something not their own, something to be feared even hated; to which they are not participants but onlookers.

We in Jordan and indeed throughout the Arab World have made great strides. Education is democratic in that it is compulsory up to a certain age level but it is not democratic in spirit, not as of now. To at least maintain the present gap that already exists between us and the West, including the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, if not to catch up, we must adopt such policies otherwise we will surely be out of the time frame of the future.

## U.S. policy in the Gulf aims at preventing Soviet influence and ending Iran-Iraq war

From USIA

WASHINGTON — "The United States is actively engaged" in trying to end the Iran-Iraq war, the State Department's top Mideast officer informed a congressional panel.

Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy, who heads the Bureau of Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, told the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Europe and the Middle East May 19 that the United States is now engaged in consultations at the United Nations Security Council to extend the authority of a United Nations resolution to end the Iran-Iraq war.

Murphy, returning from a seven-nation Mideast tour last week, reported that in the countries he visited he found that the U.S. "determination to maintain a position of strength" in the region was favourably received, without exception.

Murphy said that for decades the United States has been working to prevent the growth of Soviet influence in the Gulf. "We do not want the Soviet Union to obtain a strategic position from which it could threaten vital world interests in the region," he stated, adding that the arrangement with Kuwait would foster that U.S. policy goal.

"For the past year Iran has been using a combination of military action, attacks on Gulf shipping and terrorism to intimidate the non-belligerent countries not involved in the war." The assistant secretary said for the past year Iran had attempted to divide the Gulf states one from the other and if it were successful in its intimidation of Kuwait, successive Gulf states would be targeted in like manner. By supporting defensive efforts of the moderate Gulf states, Murphy said, the U.S. "enables them to defend the interests we share in the Gulf and reduces the prospects for closer ties with the Soviet Union as well as any inclination to accommodate Iranian hegemony."

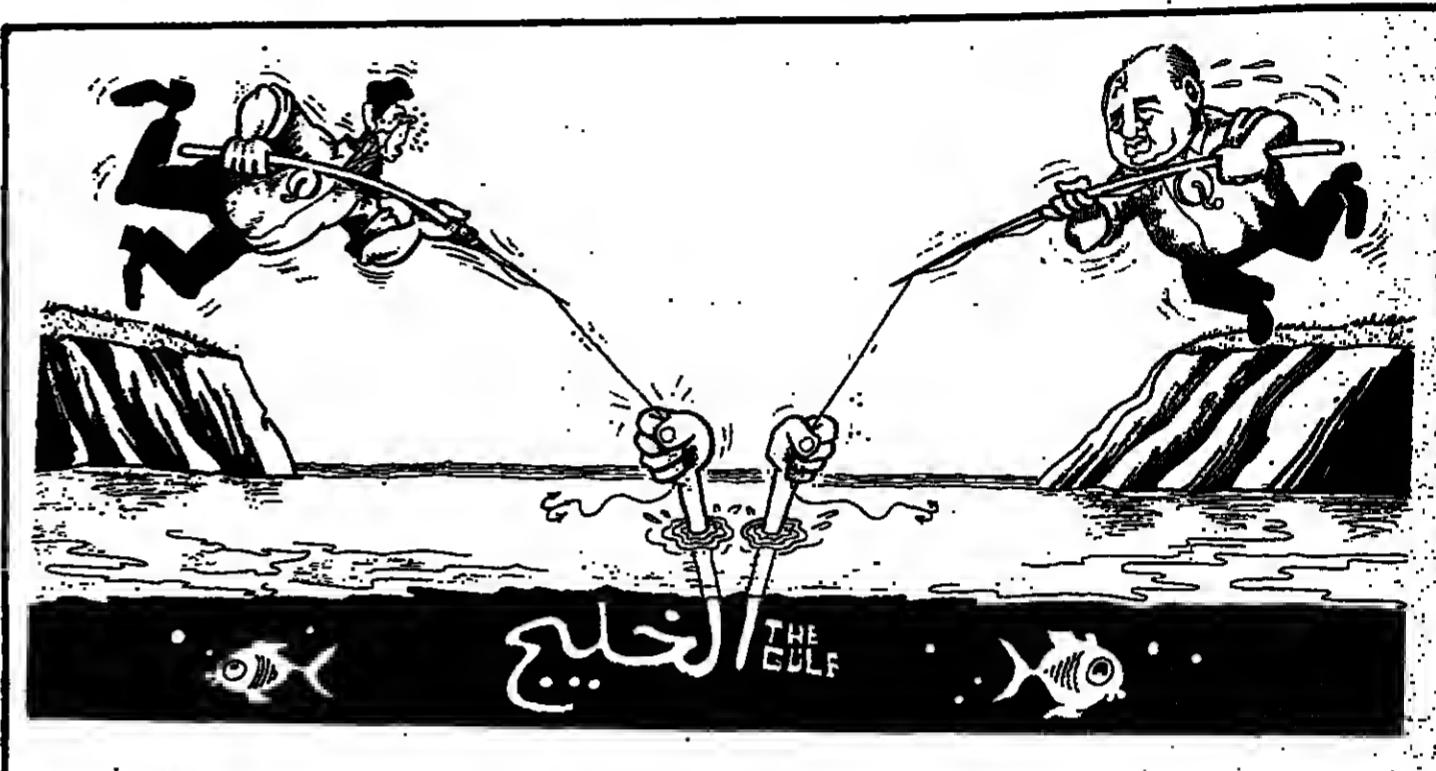
Following is the text of Murphy's prepared statement to the subcommittee:

I appreciate the opportunity to meet with you today to discuss the Administration's policy toward the continuing war between Iran and Iraq and toward problems related to international shipping in the Gulf.

Our meeting takes place against the background of the attack by Iraqi aircraft on the USS Stark Sunday with tragic loss of life. We extend our deepest condolences to the families of those brave American sailors who died or were injured in the attack. We greatly appreciate the assistance provided by Saudi Arabia and Bahrain in the rescue and evacuation operation.

Yesterday morning the President expressed his concern and anger over Sunday's tragedy in the Gulf and noted that we have protested the unprovoked attack with mounting casualties and drains on the economies of these two nations, so grows the threat of the war spilling over to nearby friendly states in the Gulf. The fresh threats to international shipping are one example of such spillover effect.

In the past eighteen months attacks on neutral shipping passing through the Strait of Hormuz have increased in intensity. A total of nearly 100 vessels were hit by Iran and Iraq in 1986; in



the first three months of this year, some 30 ships were attacked, including a Soviet merchant ship. Since the first of May Iran has attacked 5 ships of non-belligerent countries, virtually all in commerce with Kuwait. Attacks now occur at night as well as day, by sea as well as air, by small boats armed with light weapons as well as by helicopters launched from Iranian warships. While Iran has yet to sink a ship, most of those attacked have suffered damage, some seriously, and innocent lives have been lost.

The May 17 attack on the USS Stark was the first attack on a U.S. warship in the war. This tragic accident gives emphasis to our caution to both belligerents that the war in the Gulf could lead to mistakes and miscalculations; it must be ended.

The recent Chinese delivery to and testing by Iran of Chinese Silkworm anti-ship missiles at the Strait of Hormuz presents a potentially serious threat to U.S. and other shipping. With their 85 km range and 1100 pound warhead, these missiles can span the Strait at its narrowest point and represent for the first time a realistic Iranian capability to sink large oil tankers. Whatever Iran's motivation for procuring such threatening missiles, their presence gives Iran the ability both to intimidate the Gulf states and Gulf shippers and to cause a real or de facto closure of the strait. The Chinese decision to sell such weaponry to Iran is most unwelcome and disturbing. We have made clear to both Iraq and China the seriousness with which we consider the Silkworm threat. Other concerned governments have done the same. It is our hope that a sustained international diplomatic campaign will convince Iran not to use the Silkworms.

For the past year Iran has been using a combination of military action, attacks on Gulf shipping and terrorism, as well as shrewd diplomacy, to intimidate the Gulf states not involved in the war. It has tried to impress upon Gulf states the hopelessness of their looking to the U.S. for help and to divide the Gulf states one from the other.

Since last summer, Kuwait has been a particular target of Iranian threats. While not a belligerent, Kuwait's size and location make it highly vulnerable to intimidation. The Iranian regime has inspired terrorist and sabotage incidents within Kuwait, fired missiles on Kuwaiti territory on the eve of the January Islamic summit, and attacked over 24 vessels serving Kuwaiti ports since last September. The most recent examples of the active intimidation efforts were the explosion at the TWA office in Kuwait city May 11 which killed one employee.

Over the last three years, Iranian

influenced groups have attempted a series of bombings and attacks, including on the ruler of Kuwait himself, in an attempt to liberate terrorists being held in Kuwait, who were convicted of bombing the U.S. and French embassies.

Several months ago Kuwait and other GCC states expressed to us their concern about the continuing attacks by Iran on tankers. Kuwait asked for our assistance, fearing potential damage to its economic lifeline. Consistent with long-standing U.S. commitment to the flow of oil through the Gulf and the importance we attach to the freedom of navigation in international waters as well as our determination to assist our friends in the Gulf, the president decided that the United States would help in the protection of Kuwaiti tankers. In the context of these developments, Kuwait asked to register a number of its tanker fleet under the U.S. flag. We informed Kuwait that if the vessels in question met ownership and other technical requirements under U.S. laws and regulations, they could be registered under the U.S. flag.

This is in accordance with our established position on qualifications for U.S. flag registration of commercial vessels in general. We also informed the Kuwaitis that by virtue of the fact that these vessels would fly the American flag, they would receive the U.S. Navy protection given any U.S. flag vessel transiting the Gulf. The U.S. Navy has always had the mission to provide appropriate protection for U.S. commercial shipping world-wide within the limits of available resources and consistent with international law.

We view the reflagging of Kuwaiti tankers in the U.S. as an unusual measure to meet an extraordinary situation. It would not however set a precedent for the normal conduct of commercial shipping or affect the broad interests of the U.S. maritime industry. U.S. flagging procedures minimally require that only the captain of each vessel be a U.S. citizen. Because these vessels will not be calling at U.S. ports, there is no requirement that they carry U.S. seaman or other U.S. crewmembers. These new U.S. flag vessels will be sailing in areas where other U.S. flag vessels have hitherto generally not frequented since the war began.

To date, Iran has been careful to avoid confrontations with U.S.-flag vessels when U.S. Navy vessels have been in the vicinity. U.S. Military Sealift Command and other commercial U.S. flag vessels have transited the Gulf each month under U.S. Navy escort without incident. We believe that our naval presence will continue to have this deterrent

effect. Iran lacks the sophisticated aircraft and weaponry used by Iraq in the mistaken attack on the USS Stark; in the aftermath of which Iraq has made clear it has no hostile intentions.

Moreover, we will make sure in advance that Iran knows which ships have been reflagged and are under U.S. protection.

Our response to Kuwait demonstrates our resolve to protect our interests and those of our friends in the region, and it has been warmly welcomed by those governments with which we have had traditionally close ties. Our goal is to deter not provoke; we believe this is understood by the parties in the region — including Iran. We will pursue our programme steadily and with determination.

Our judgment is that, in light of all the surrounding circumstances,

## LETTERS

## Unfair coverage

To the Editor:

I, as a regular reader of most newspapers from the Gulf and Jordan, was indeed surprised to find the massive coverage they gave to Sunday's Iraqi missile attack on the USS Stark. Most newspapers led with the story, many with superlarge headlines and one or more photographs.

While I do not dispute the newsworthiness of an incident in which an Iraqi missile hits an American warship and kills 28 (that was the death toll on Monday, if you remember), I would like to raise a simple question: Did any of these newspapers give any consideration to the level of coverage that the U.S. information media give to news involving Arab lives? For instance, were the 1982 massacres of hundreds of people at the Shatila and Sabra given the proper coverage they deserved, as a human interest story if not as underlining the Israeli hands behind it? The 1985 Israeli air attack on Tunis which killed more than 70 people? Or the recent series of systematic Israeli bombings of Palestinian camps in South Lebanon killing more than 60 people since the beginning of this year? Above all, what about the thousands of lives lost in the Iran-Iraq war, an offshoot of which was the attack on the Stark? With the exception of a very small number of newspapers, most of the U.S. information media chose to ignore these news items. If anything, some newspapers chose to tuck them away in an obscure corner in an inside page.

Of course, one has to submit that American newspapers are more concerned with news involving American lives than Israeli attacks on Arabs (though not the vice-versa) or the dragging war in the Gulf. By the same token, why don't we in the Arab World adopt the same parameters while dealing with Americans? For instance, there was indeed an Israeli attack on the Mleha camp in South Lebanon on Monday, the raid killed one Arab and wounded several, and it was the latest in a series of Israeli bombings of Palestinian camps. Most newspapers, including the Jordan Times, did indeed carry the item on page 1 but with relegated importance. I would say that if the situation was to be reversed — i.e. if 28 Arabs were killed in the Israeli raid, and only one American was killed in the attack on the Stark — the choice of American newspapers would still have been the same: lead with the death of the American and assign the other story to an inside page. To say the least, one American life is worth more than 100 Arab lives as far as the U.S. information media are concerned, one cannot exactly blame them for it; since such a nationalist attitude is only natural in any part of the world, except perhaps, as it has emerged, in the Arab World.

Yusef Khairallah  
Amman



Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev

## Gorbachev gives insight into his personal world

By Helen Womack

MOSCOW — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev gave a glimpse of his personal world in a newspaper interview published Wednesday, saying his main weakness was his interest in a wide variety of subjects.

Showing the modesty he has espoused as the proper style for a Kremlin leader, Gorbachev told the Italian Communist Party newspaper *L'Unità* that any popularity he had gained in the West was not for himself as a "concrete person" but for his policies to revitalise Soviet society and achieve disarmament.

But, in answer to an appeal to satisfy Western curiosity about himself, he described his intellectual interests in the interview, published in the Communist Party daily *Pravda*.

"I have always held that my 'weakness' is that I have always shown interest in many things in various fields," he said, adding that he had studied law after intending to enroll as a physics student.

In his youth, he also liked literature and could still remember by heart poetry he learned at school, although in his mature years his interest had turned more to economics.

"One might assent that people who concentrate on some specific field achieve much-in life. But still people with a broad outlook are more to my liking," Gorbachev said.

The 56-year-old Kremlin leader also disclosed that he had no free time since launching his campaign to make Soviet society more disciplined and democratic.

But privileges "which are not established by the state but which some established for themselves by virtue of their position" were unacceptable, he said.

"Perhaps such a 'way of life' cannot be described as quite normal but it is dictated by the time, by a situation resembling revolutionary periods when one must give oneself entirely, regardless of anything," he said.

Gorbachev said the country had "ripened for changes" over a number of years, adding that he and other officials who had "passed through a big school of practical work in the provinces" had

recognised that the nation was stagnating under the late President Leonid Brezhnev.

He stressed this was a collective realisation.

"I disagree with what is sometimes said that the course towards the renewal of Socialism is personally associated with the name of Gorbachev...

"If there were no Gorbachev, there would have been someone else," he said.

The Kremlin leader also said he attached great importance to his trips around the country, where some people expressed anxiety that reforms might not be carried through to the end.

This, he said, had happened in the past, but he promised to hold to the new course. He said he faced no "political opposition" but only the problem that many people were still trapped in old attitudes.

Stressing his personal commitment to the ideas of Vladimir Lenin, founder of the Soviet state, Gorbachev appeared to express faith in the prospect that living conditions would be equal for all who Communism was achieved.

He said that in the meantime Socialism demanded "from each according to his abilities, to each according to his work" and he denounced what he called recent "levelling tendencies" which he said had encouraged the lazy and had stifled initiative.

Those who worked well would be rewarded and the state could grant privileges to individuals in the interests of developing the whole of society," he said.

But privileges "which are not established by the state but which some established for themselves by virtue of their position" were unacceptable, he said.

Since coming to power in March 1985, Gorbachev has removed hundreds of corrupt officials, who thrived under Brezhnev, and urged openness and justice in society.

But he made clear in the interview that the Soviet Union was not about to turn into a Western democracy. "The point at issue is not a break-up of our political system but fuller and more effective use of its potential," he said.

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Prison ships were first used by

# Unemployment becoming way of life in England

By Cotton Timberlake  
*The Associated Press*

MIDDLESBROUGH, England — Cleveland County, which has England's highest unemployment rate, does not belong to the manured British Isles of picture postcards.

Thousands of jobs have disappeared, and an industrial stink fills the air around 3,000 acres (1,200 hectares) of derelict factories.

The joblessness — 20.8 per cent of the county's residents are unemployed — has marred more than the external landscape. It has damaged the internal one. "I always tend to feel scruffy,

even when I'm not," said Susan Brooks, 25, who is unemployed. "It makes me feel degraded."

The opposition Labour Party will do its utmost before the June 11 general election to make unemployment an issue. Since conservative Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher came to power in 1979, the number of unemployed Britons has more than doubled to 3.02 million people, or 10.9 per cent of the work force.

But Labour may find it hard to capitalise on what is considered the greatest failure of Mrs. Thatcher, who is seeking an unprecedented third straight term. The polls show the incumbent conservatives ahead in the race to

control the 650-seat parliament.

Many of the jobless have become resigned to their plight. The problem is so large and entrenched that it seems impervious to political solutions.

Meanwhile, those who do have work — but not necessarily job security — are the majority and are better off economically.

"Unemployment has not become a political crisis and there's been no wide-scale social unrest," said Ken Roberts, a sociologist. "Ten years ago people would not have believed it possible."

Cleveland county, 320 kilometers north of London on the coast, was booming in the 1960s as an early 70s. Unemployment stood at 5 per cent. There was steelmaking, shipbuilding and the manufacturing of chemicals and equipment for North Sea oil rigs.

Then came overcapacity. Technology advanced quickly, requiring fewer workers and making skills obsolete. In addition, the country's dependence on a small number of large companies made it particularly vulnerable to industry changes.

Owners said the consequences of detention were especially dire for refugees seeking asylum in Britain to flee persecution at home.

"We know of two cases of attempted suicide, and one recent case where a Ugandan did actually commit suicide in Pentonville Prison," she said.

The British Refugee Council, a registered charity, said the use of ferry would be "particularly inhumane," given the long periods of detention often experienced by asylum-seekers.

Council director Martin Barber said he deplored the "unnecessary and increasing use of detention for asylum-seekers," wherever they were held. The council said it had heard of six suicide attempts by asylum-seekers this year. A Home Office official confirmed the Ugandan's death and said several attempts at suicide had been recorded among detainees in recent years, though no other deaths had resulted.

The ferry, built in 1964, still retains signs of its more conventional role. A sign remains above a kiosk on one of the lower decks reading "Passport Office."

The irony will not be lost on the detainees. They will all be there because their passports and visas were not in order.

Some will be men and women initially released to enter the country while their cases are under review. They will include political refugees and asylum-seekers.

Others will be illegal immigrants picked up inside Britain and awaiting deportation.

The ship is owned by Sealink, a private British ferry operator, who are leasing it to the Home Office for an initial three months, with the possibility of extension. A Sealink representative said security would be provided by 30 men from a private security firm, some living on board.

A Home Office spokesman said the arrival of a new-born baby tends to disrupt the lives of the parents, but Nick and Angie's first-born changes the lives of his grandparents, too. In this new comedy series Michael Elphick, who starred in the critically acclaimed *Private Schulz*, plays

The sleepy little village of St. Mary Mead, which once before has been thrown into a state of shock by the affair of *The Body in the Library*, is again the scene of a horrifying murder. This time the drama begins when Miss Marple, tending her garden one fine April morning, is startled to hear the Reverend Clement, the mild-mature vicar of St. Mary's, swearing in anger. The subject of his wrath, our Colonel Lucius Protheroe, does not surprise her, however, for the Colonel is not a popular man. Miss Marple herself dislikes him intensely, as do most of the inhabitants of the village.

A Home Office spokesman said on daily regime would operate on the ship, and detainees would be free to move around as they pleased. A television lounge would be fitted out on board, with other recreation facilities installed on the cavernous car decks.

He said use of the ferry was made necessary by coining pressure on existing detention facilities. Around 300 detainees are being held in Britain at present while the Home Office investigates their cases.

To top it off, Mrs. Thatcher clamped down on public spending in the early 1980s to keep inflation under control.

"It took us a long time to recognise and it's now being recognised that there is long-term unemployment," said Bryan Hanson, the political leader of the labour-dominated county. "Some people will never have a job in their whole life."

Bruce Stevenson, the county's chief executive, said: "We are now for the first time organising our services to support the unemployed on a permanent basis."

It has nothing to do with laziness, he said.

"This is an area that has always worked hard. It's simply the lack of opportunity. That's causing tremendous stress," Stevenson said.

The unemployment problem has affected the entire area. The Cleveland County Council has become the largest employer, with 20,000 of the 580,000 residents on its payroll.

Petty crime is up. Loan sharks go about knocking on doors. Homes are difficult to sell. Families break apart. Residents suffer

from bad nutrition.

For those who can find work, wages are down, perhaps because they're willing to work for less.

Robin Treacher, a spokesman for the council, explained the industrial stink in the air.

"There are a lot of people who believe ... we have a greater leniency toward accepting industry that wouldn't be accepted in other parts of the country," he said.

Even though the stigma of being jobless is not severe in Britain, the unemployed feel worthless and unwanted in society, experts say.

Twenty per cent of county residents eligible for unemployment benefits don't claim them, officials estimate.

Nationwide, annual unemployment benefit payments have soared 7.35 billion pounds (\$12.3 billion) from 1.5 billion pounds (\$2.5 billion) in 1979.

Tom Smith, a 33-year-old unemployed mechanical fitter, is trying to support a wife and three children on benefits of 75 pounds (\$12.50 dollars) a week.

Asked why he had children

when he wouldn't be able to afford to raise them, Smith replied: "If you have no children and it's just the two of you, what do you have to look forward to?"

Despite the gloomy prospects for Cleveland County youths, student examination results rank among the best in Britain. Still, only one of 10 recent graduates found a full-time job.

"Nobody knows how to run a society in which in in 10 years time a substantial number of young people will have never worked," Stevenson said.

Opposition politicians and experts have called for solutions such as an increase in public spending, training programmes, shortening the work week, encouraging entrepreneurship and migration. The country, meanwhile, works day-to-day to alleviate the worst of its problems.

"The people in Cleveland are not the kind of people that riot," Smith said. But Hanson, the political leader, described it differently.

"We have a very slow riot taking place all the time."

By Helen Womack

MOSCOW — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev gave a glimpse of his personal world in a newspaper interview published Wednesday, saying his main weakness was his interest in a wide variety of subjects.

Showing the modesty he has espoused as the proper style for a Kremlin leader, Gorbachev told the Italian Communist Party newspaper *L'Unità* that any popularity he had gained in the West was not for himself as a "concrete person" but for his policies to revitalise Soviet society and achieve disarmament.

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## Chinese excel in badminton

PEKING (R) — China's powerful badminton squad predictably dominated quarter-finals day at the world championships Friday by claiming six of the eight semifinal places in the two singles events.

Only number one seed Morten Frost of Denmark and second seeded Iku Sugiaro of Indonesia interrupted China's run of victories with relatively comfortable wins in their respective men's quarter-final matches.

But the women's singles semifinals will both be all-Chinese affairs. Zheng Yuli, Gu Jianming and Han Aiping enjoyed straightforward victories and only top seeded Li Lingwei was extended to three games — by compatriot and joint fifth seed Shi Wen, whom she beat 11-12, 11-6, 11-8.

The Peking crowd can now look forward to the match they have been awaiting since the start of the championships, a semifinal clash between Frost and joint third seed Zhao Jianhua.

The 29-year-old Dane overpowered Malaysian teenager Rashid Sidek 15-7, 15-5, while Zhao beat

compatriot Zhang Qingwu 15-4, 15-2.

Left-hander Zhao has been in brilliant form throughout all four rounds and is widely tipped by his fellow-players as the most likely successor to countryman Han Jian, who beat Frost in Calgary two years ago.

"I'll need all the luck I can get against Zhao," was how the Dane put his chances of reaching the final.

Iku, champion in Copenhagen in 1983, had his toughest match yet against joint fifth seed Xiong Guohao, eventually beating the Chinese 15-7, 15-13 though still complaining of an ankle injury.

Iku said his persistent right ankle injury may ruin his quest for a second world title.

He told reporters his two-month-old injury, sustained a left-hander carefully coached to a peak at the fifth world championships since 1977.

slowed down his play on Friday and may tell against him in the semifinal.

"I was undecided about coming to Peking and was surprised that I made it to the semifinals," Iku said.

Iku has brought two masses to Peking, including an Indonesian expert in traditional methods of healing for sprains and injuries and receives daily treatment from them.

After winning the first game of his quarter-final easily, the Indonesian went 5-0 down in the second, drew level at 6-6 but held up the match for a few minutes disputing a line call against him.

At 13-13 the service changed five times, but the experienced Indonesian finally found the reserves to win the match, turning to the home crowd of about 5,000 and holding his arm high in a clenched fist.

His next opponent is Chinese number one Yang Yang, another left-hander carefully coached to a peak at the fifth world championships since 1977.



TAE KWON DO TEAM BACK: Members of the national taekwondo team, which returned to Amman Wednesday from Helsinki, Finland, are seen with scores of fans and senior sports officials who have received them at the Queen Alia Interna-

tional Airport. The team, which secured the sixth position among 16 participating countries in the world taekwondo tournament last week, will now resume training for other international tournaments.



Zola Budd

## Injury may subside Budd for whole year

LONDON (R) — Zola Budd has given up virtually all hope of running at international level this year because of a nagging injury.

The South African-born athlete who competes for Britain admits: "I have forgotten 1987".

Budd said in an interview due to be screened on British Television on Sunday the problem is at the top of her hamstring and could be caused by the fact she is still growing.

She has not competed since the European Championships in Stuttgart last September and has not been able to do any hard training since then.

"It's very frustrating, but at the moment it's more important for me to get well rather than think of racing. I will just have to be patient," Budd said.

"In a way I have forgotten 1987. I would rather think of the Olympics next year."

"The world championships (in Rome in August) is almost an unrealistic target because of my lack of training."

"The doctors have told me to take it easy, let the injury recover and settle down before I can do any hard racing again. Nobody is pushing me, it's my decision when I want to race again."

## Apartheid controversy threatens to halt title bout

PORTE OF SPAIN, Trinidad (R)

— The light heavyweight title bout between champion Marvin Johnson and Leslie Stewart was in doubt Thursday because two of the officials have worked in South Africa, the national security ministry said.

Trinidad and Tobago's first world championship boxing match, scheduled for Saturday, became the centre of a political controversy when the government moved to bar the two officials from judging the fight.

The national security ministry said it would not issue work permits to referee Isidro Rodriguez or Judge Jesus Celis, both of Venezuela, who were scheduled to officiate the World Boxing Association (WBA) fight.

Both men worked at a 1985 fight in Sun City prior to the WBA's October 1986 resolution

to ban its boxers and officials from fights in South Africa.

Promoters and managers have said they will appeal the decision. However, they also recognised that the government's position was complicated because the fight was scheduled to take place during a visit here by South African anti-apartheid activist Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

Jimmy Cavo, Stewart's manager, said he had been in touch with prime minister A.N.R. Robinson's office twice on Thursday and planned to make a personal appeal to the prime minister Saturday.

He expressed confidence the government will ease its position regarding the two officials.

"I think they should let it slide and I think they will let it slide," Cavo told Reuters.

## Milligram to give Stoute 2nd triumph

DUBLIN (R) — Milligram is the warm favourite to give British trainer Michael Stoute his second Irish 1,000 Guineas in a row now that flying filly, Indian Skinner, has been surprisingly withdrawn from Saturday's race.

Stoute won the Irish Fillies Classic last year with Sonic Lady and Milligram, who was runner-up to French champion Miesque in the Newmarket 1,000 Guineas, is 6-4 favourite to go one better this time at the Curragh, windswept headquarters of Irish racing.

Jockey Walter Swinburn will also be keen to erase the nightmare of his last classic ride at the Curragh — he finished third on Aidal in last Saturday's Irish 2,000 Guineas but then forgot to weigh in and was disqualified.

Henry Cecil caused a major surprise, and filled a few bookmakers' satchels with ante-post bets, when he decided Friday that his impressive filly Indian Skinner would be switched instead to

Paris for Sunday's Prix Saint Alary.

Cecil, concerned about the going at the Curragh, is keen to take a tilt at Miesque in the Prix De Diane at Chantilly, a superb race in the making which could settle who is this year's champion European filly.

Saturday's race is certainly no walkover for Milligram. Her toughest challenge could come from the Hardy Ian Balding filly Forest Flower who had to miss the newmarket 1,000 Guineas but could be launched on an attacking 1987 campaign.

If she emerges successful on Saturday, Balding may be tempted by the filly's five pound weight advantage to take on the colts, led by hot favourite reference point, in next month's Epsom Derby.

Sixth in the Newmarket 1,000 Guineas was Minstrel but trainer Charlie Nelson is convinced she can do much better at the Curragh if covered up until the last moment.

## Mansell, Senna squabble after car crash

SYDNEY (R) — British motor racing driver Nigel Mansell has said there would have been a mess on the floor if he had got his hands on Brazilian Ayrton Senna after their cars tangled during the Belgian Grand Prix last Sunday.

Mansell gave his version of the events in Belgium, which led to both drivers having to retire from the race, in a syndicated column in the Australian Daily Telegraph.

The Briton said that after leaving a left-handed bend early in the race, Senna appeared to miss a gear. Mansell flicked left, believing Senna had let him in.

As he approached the next right-bander Mansell said he looked in his mirror and saw Senna behind him on his right, apparently about to let Brazilian Nelson Piquet through as well.

"I turned into the corner and the next thing I knew he (Senna) was sliding down the inside."

## McEnroe rapped over players' protest

DUESSELDORF, West Germany (R) — Former world number one John McEnroe has been bitterly criticised by tennis officials for his part in a players' refusal to switch to indoor courts after rain interrupted play at the \$750,000 World Team Cup.

More than 6,000 angry fans waited for up to three hours at the Dusseldorf Ice Stadium while players and officials argued over whether they should play on the specially built clay court behind the revolt.

The players finally capitulated

when tournament organisers threatened them with disqualification if they refused.

Afterwards tournament director Horst Klosterkemper singled out American McEnroe, Guillermo Vilas of Argentina and Emilio Sanchez of Spain as the players behind the revolt.

The usually mild-mannered Klosterkemper told a news conference he was "very disappointed" by the players' attitude. He said he had offered all spectators half of their money back.

## France facing tough times in post-Platini era

PARIS (R) — Testing times await French soccer now that the exit of Michel Platini has closed the most brilliant era in the national team's history.

The break-up of the team created by Michel Platini gathered pace after last year's World Cup finals and French fortunes have already faded. But while Platini was still there — even if he said it was just to lend a hand — the team's strongest link remained.

That link was severed on Sunday when the French soccer king announced his abdication in Italy, the land of his forebears, after five great seasons with Juventus Turin.

"We are all sorry but it was inescapable. It's the end of an epoch for French football but also for the French team," said Henri Michel, who took over the national side after Platini led them to their pinnacle as European champions in 1984.

Platini will be 32 next month and Michel, who used to play alongside him for France, has long had to reconcile himself to the fact that somebody else would soon fill the number 10 shirt.

"He's an exceptional player... but one day we'll have to do without him. He's not eternal," Michel said after Platini helped France to a 2-0 victory over Iceland here last month in his 72nd international appearance.

Platini's class still stood out that night in the Parc Des Princes Stadium, where he had made his debut on March 27, 1976, in

"I have decided to leave football but I can't hide my sadness. The competition, the team, the public, the game, the emotion before going on to the field... I will miss it all but I can't go on because I don't enjoy it anymore," he said.

Platini's abundant gifts as a creator of rare tactical vision and lethal finishing skill won the player and the teams he graced virtually every honour in the game, but raised the expectations of others to levels hard to bear.

"I'm no longer judged on what I do but on what I ought to do, what I must do. I must score goals, be fantastic. That's what's a hit difficult," he told Reuters before the last world cup, where he was to be hampered by tendinitis and suffer harsh critical comparison with Argentine hero Diego Maradona.

The World Cup was one prize to elude Platini, who led France

to the semifinals twice, captained

the winning European champion-

ship side — when he scored

nine goals in five matches — and

earned the accolades of Euro-

pean Footballer of The Year and

the Italian League's leading

marksmen three years in a row.

He helped Juventus to the

European Cup, Cup-Winners'

Cup, Inter-Continental Cup and

Italian League Cup after winning

the French Cup with Nancy and

the League with Saint-Etienne.

He was invested two years ago as

Chevalier in the French Legion

D'Honneur.

In all, quite a collection for a

man whose career was nearly

stalled at the outset when, as

a teenager, he was rejected by First

Division Metz after a machine

testing his lungs reported "a very

feeble respiratory capacity and

cardiac insufficiency."

The post-Platini outlook is

none too rosy for France, who

travel to Norway next month

trying to keep alive their slender

hopes of earning the right to

defend their European title in

West Germany next year.

The Soviet Union took a strong

grip on the qualifying group when

they subjected France to a rare

defeat in Paris last October, leav-

## SPORTS IN BRIEF

### Al Wasl wins UAE President's Soccer Cup

ABU DHABI (R) — Dubai's Al Wasl beat Khor Fakkan's Al Khaleej 2-1 Thursday night (halftime 0-0) to win the United Arab Emirates (UAE) President's Cup soccer trophy for the first time. Al Khaleej's Obaid Saeed opened scoring in the 48th minute from a pass by Hassan Abdul Wahhab. Al Wasl equalised in the 52nd minute with a penalty by star striker Fahd Khamis who clinched victory in the 60th minute on a pass from his brother Nasser. Attendance: 5,000.

### Brazilian star disciplined for celebrating

DUBLIN (R) — Brazilian world cup star Josimar has been reprimanded by manager Carlos Alberto Silva for a breach of discipline following the 1-1 draw against England at Wembley on Tuesday. The 25-year-old right back is alleged to have gone "on the town" after the game and as a result he has been fined his match bonus. But Josimar may escape further punishment as he is the only right back available for the second match of the team's European tour, against Ireland here on Saturday.

### Jamaican runner dies in action

CAPE GIRARDEAU (R) — Jamaican Paul Bryan has collapsed and has died after running in the semifinals of the 1,500 metre race at a collegiate athletics meet here, a hospital spokesman said. The 22-year-old Bryan, a junior at California University of Pennsylvania, collapsed after finishing fifth in the race at Southeast Missouri State University. Bryan crossed the finish line, staggered into the infield then came back on the track and collapsed, witnesses said. Assistant trainer Tim Barron and head trainer Jeff Daniel of Southeast Missouri State administered mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, but within 30 seconds after first aid efforts were administered, Bryan stopped breathing. Daniel said: "He appeared to be having some kind of seizure activity, but he had a pulse rate and he was breathing. We had a pulse, but we just couldn't hold it." The trainers worked on Bryan for another 10 minutes until an ambulance arrived. An emergency medical team then spent 10 minutes trying to resuscitate the fallen athlete before taking him to Southeast Missouri Hospital, where he was pronounced dead. An autopsy will be performed to determine the cause of death, a hospital spokesman said.

### Johnson says he will not retire if beaten

PORTE OF SPAIN, Trinidad (R) — World Boxing Association (WBA) light-heavyweight champion Marvin Johnson will not end his long career if he loses his title to local challenger Leslie Stewart when they meet here Saturday. Johnson, who earned the nickname "Pops" because of his longevity as a professional boxer, has won and lost two world titles during a 14-year, 48-fight ring career. But the 33-year-old has said: "Defeat won't force me to retire. I did not come here to lose. I'm here to retain my title."

### CAR FOR SALE

Mazda S-W 929 station model 1983, duty not paid. For JD 1,200.</

## LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets on Friday.

One Sterling	1.6800/10	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.3465/70	Canadian dollar
	1.7750/60	West German marks
	2.0000/10	Dutch guilders
	1.4555/65	Swiss francs
	36.77/80	Belgian francs
	5.9380/9410	French francs
	1285/1286	Italian lira
	140.35/45	Japanese yen
	6.21/0.2240	Swedish krona
	6.6110/6160	Norwegian kronas
	6.6760/6810	Danish kronas
One ounce of gold	473.50/474.00	U.S. dollars

## LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Shares maintained their early highs after a technical reaction to the recent declines but business was at minimal levels. Many operators wound down operations ahead of the long holiday weekend on both sides of the Atlantic.

Some dealers contacted by Reuters late Friday said they had hardly traded all afternoon. The FTSE 100 index at 1410 GMT Friday was steady at 2,173.2, up 19.5 points from Thursday's close.

The firm overnight showing on Wall Street promised to be continued at the opening Friday and was helping to hold shares near their highs. A batch of U.S. economic indicators came within forecasts and fuelled the early Wall Street rise.

International shares were steady although Beecham and Fisons stood out on demand from the U.S., dealers said. Beecham rose 19p to 526 and Fisons 18p to 374 while ICI was steady at 3,175.

Dealers said some of the market's nervousness over recent opinion polls showing the main opposition Labour Party gaining on the ruling Conservatives had abated somewhat.

A new opinion poll in the Guardian newspaper showed the Conservatives with 41 per cent of the vote while Labour held 33 per cent.

## YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

## FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, MAY 23, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This is an unusually good Saturday to plan for future goals. Far-sighted potentials can animate you to make sure you use every available source to forge ahead.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) You can go after the personal longings that have been dormant for a long time. Take it easy tonight.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Get in touch with clever advisers who can help you gain personal goals easily. Strengthen relationships with friends.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) You can get together with your friends and start working on a new project. Do something for your mate.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Study the various options you have that can help you to have a better position in life.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Get out of that rut you are in and tackle more important matters that are truly worthwhile.

VENUS (Aug. 22 to Sep. 22) Adopt a different attitude toward your mate and establish greater harmony between you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You are naturally a home lover, but today is fine for going out and making new contacts of value.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Put a course of action in motion early and you can have greater success in whatever your sphere of endeavor.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You can enjoy good friends today since you have an overwhelming feeling of good will.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Changes are in the offing where home and family are concerned, so accept them graciously.

ARQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Handle interests that are very important to you. Plan to expand in the near future. Be happy tonight.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Study every aspect of your financial interests. Confer with big entrepreneurs and get good advice.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he, or she, will have a charmed life, as it were. Your progeny will always look on others as friends and gain their favor and will also have the ability to charm the influential people who will become backers of this child. Give encouragement for the accomplishments here.

## U.S. inflation accelerates

WASHINGTON (R) — Consumer prices rose by 0.4 per cent in April as rising energy and clothing prices helped push the inflation index higher, the U.S. Department of Labour said Friday.

The April increase in the consumer price index, though significant, is lower than what many financial analysts had expected. Most analysts anticipated consumer prices would rise by about 0.6 per cent last month.

The rise follows a similar 0.4 per cent jump in March and was led by advances in energy and clothing prices, which could raise fresh concerns about the impact rising prices of oil and imported goods will have on the inflation rate this year.

The Labour Department said the food and energy components each advanced 0.3 per cent in April, while apparel and upkeep increased by 1.5 per cent.

Meanwhile, the Commerce Department confirmed Friday that the economy grew at a robust rate during the first quarter, but that was overshadowed by a sharp weakening in corporate balance sheets and signs of weakening demand in the current quarter.

The department said gross national product (GNP) grew by an annual rate of 4.4 per cent.

But the rise was due to a large building of business inventories which means slower growth during the current three month period as businesses slow production to work off those excess stocks.

## Cannon film group reports huge losses

LOS ANGELES (R) — Cannon Group Inc., the independent film company that has been accused of inflating its revenues and profits, reported Thursday that it lost \$60.4 million last year.

Cannon, formed in 1967 and operated by two Hollywood mavericks from Israel, Mr. Menahem Golan and Mr. Yoram Globus, made its name with action films featuring stars such as Chuck Norris.

But the company has had no recent hits and in December Cannon needed to be rescued from some of its debt by Warner Communications Inc.

The loss announced Thursday compares with a \$15.2 million profit in 1985 and came despite revenues more than double to \$352.7 million.

The Securities and Exchange Commission is investigating the company's accounting and disclosure procedures and shareholders have filed suit against Cannon alleging it inflated its revenues and earnings by not accounting quickly enough for films that fail at the box office.

Mr. Dennis Forst, an analyst at Security Pacific Merchant Bank, told Reuters that the 1986 loss was not as bad as some had feared. But he said Cannon may lose more unless it releases some successful movies.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Seoul denies plan to open Israeli office

SEOUL (R) — South Korea Thursday denied foreign reports it had agreed to the opening of an Israeli trade office in Seoul. Reports from Tel Aviv said the Israeli foreign ministry's director-general, Mr. Avraham Tamir, reached an agreement in principle in Seoul last week to open the trade office. A foreign ministry spokesman here told reporters Mr. Tamir had raised the issue during his Seoul visit. "But my government has reached no agreement (with him) on the establishment of a trade office," he said. Other ministry officials said Seoul had no plans to open an Israeli trade office in the foreseeable future. Israel still maintains diplomatic relations with South Korea but withdrew its embassy in 1978 as an austerity measure. At the same time the Seoul government was expanding ties with Arab countries to boost oil supplies for its rapid industrialisation programmes.

## EC, EFTA agree on freer trade

INTERLAKEN, Switzerland (R) — Free trade among 18 West European countries advanced Thursday with the signing of the first-ever accords between the European Community (EC) and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA). They signed two conventions simplifying customs forms and procedures for goods travelling within the region, taking effect on Jan. 1, 1988. EC commissioner for external relations, Mr. Willy De Clercq, who signed for the 12-nation EC, said the move would make life easier for businesses and entrepreneurs in EC and EFTA states, where 13 different languages are spoken among the 350 million inhabitants. Trade between the 12-nation EC and the EFTA states of Switzerland, Sweden, Austria, Norway, Finland and Iceland, totals about \$150 billion a year. They signed a convention which will introduce a single administrative document for trade between EFTA and EC countries, replacing dozens of national documents for imports, exports and transit. The second convention sets up a common customs procedure for goods in transit through EFTA or EC states.

## Islamic bank to lend Malaysia \$2.1m

JEDDAH (OPECNA) — The Islamic Development Bank (IDB) is to extend a \$2.1 million loan to Malaysia to help finance imports of industrial goods. The loan agreement was signed here by IDB Vice President Ousmane Seck and Malaysian Consul General Zain Al Abdedin. The loan brings total IDB assistance to Malaysia over the past nine months to more than \$4 million.

## Yugoslavia hikes petrol, food prices

BELGRADE (R) — The Yugoslav government Thursday substantially raised the prices of petrol, milk and meat in the latest blow to households struggling with almost 100 per cent annual inflation. The official Tanjug News Agency said the government raised prices for milk by 15 per cent, meat by 20 per cent, and petrol by almost 23 per cent. It was the second big petrol rise in Communist Yugoslavia in two months. Petrol went up 16 per cent on March 21 and 23, 7 per cent in December. The government has pledged to cut inflation by restraining firms for raising prices but it has itself raised the prices of several essential goods recently in categories where it has the authority to do so directly, such as petrol. Prime Minister Branko Mikulic was quoted by officials Thursday as saying the petrol rise was needed due to a continuing fall off the dinar against hard currencies and to bring prices in line with those of neighbouring countries.

## France ends gold import, export ban

PARIS (R) — France on Thursday abolished a long-standing regulation banning residents from importing or exporting gold coins and bullion. The finance ministry said the move, which puts gold on the same footing as any other merchandise, would boost the place of Paris among world bullion markets. It said it was also relaxing controls on French companies' foreign currency holdings and dealings and easing regulations which previously forbade shops and hotels from changing money for tourists. The bulk of France's once maze-like foreign exchange control system was abolished last year.

## Kuwait extends loans to African states

KUWAIT (R) — The Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development signed an accord Thursday to lend Lesotho 1.1 million dinars (\$4 million) for a sanitation project in Maseru, the Kuwait News Agency KUNA said. The soft-term loan, signed in the Lesotho capital, follows a 1.4 million dinar (\$4.9 million) accord signed in Harare on Wednesday for a road scheme in Zimbabwe. The loans will cover 49 per cent of the cost of a project for waste water collection and treatment in Maseru and 58 per cent of the cost of a 48-kilometre Mandiamabwe-Chibi-Tokwe road scheme in Zimbabwe. Both loans are for 20 years and carry an annual 0.5 per cent administrative fee. In addition, interest of 1.5 per cent a year will be charged on the Lesotho loan and 2.5 per cent on the loan to Zimbabwe. Despite its name, the Kuwait Fund, the oldest Arab donor agency for "soft" development aid, lends widely throughout the Third World.

## Peanuts



## Mutt'n' Jeff



## Andy Capp



## Oman banks expect difficulties

MUSCAT (R) — Several of Oman's banks are projecting a sharp fall in 1987 earnings as the full impact of last year's slide in oil prices strikes home and government budget constraint dampens the Gulf state's economy.

Oman's 22 local and foreign banks generally recorded a strong rise in 1986 earnings, but results were inflated by windfall currency profits after a 10.2 per cent devaluation of the Omani riyal against the dollar.

Only this year has the full impact of an estimated 16 per cent decline in 1986 gross domestic product been felt by banks.

One banker in the Ruwi financial district of the capital area said: "1987 has been a very difficult year so far... there are no new projects to finance."

Oman generates about 80 per cent of government revenue from oil exports and although it is now selling at \$17.63 per barrel — more than double mid-1986 lows — public sector spending remains under tight control.

Banks have seen traditional business shrink, with loans and advances to the private sector down by 9.3 per cent.

With some banks projecting halving of their 1986 earnings this year, two small local banks may merge, while Ciobank is reducing its Muscat operation considerably, bankers said.

Some other foreign banks, relying on their worldwide net works and stockholding sub-

sidiaries, have begun a new drive into investment banking and management of private Omani wealth.

The nation's largest bank, National Bank of Oman, reported steady 1986 operating profit of 6.1 million Omani riyals (\$15.8 million) but announced a 15 per cent rise in dividend to 2.7 million riyals (\$7.0 million).

With new banking strategies taking time to generate revenue, bankers are resigned to weaker 1987 profits.

Hopes for a recovery in later years are closely linked to prospects for a pick-up in the economy and renewed government spending in Muscat and outlying regions.

Mr. James McNie, manager of Grindlays Bank, said: "The economic outlook remains heavily dependent on future oil demand and price trends and therefore short-term prospects may not, by historical standards, be particularly encouraging."

"But Oman has been able to counter the impact of the world petroleum glut more successfully than many other oil producing countries, and given the continuation of present policies, it seems likely that economic activity will recover after the setback in 1986," he added.

## Latin American debtors see new loans despite move by Citicorp

MEXICO CITY (R) — Citicorp's decision to set aside \$3 billion against loan losses will not necessarily lead to new loans drying up, and could even turn out to be positive, according to senior officials from Latin American debtor nations.

"It (the decision) is one that takes us into a new phase of the debt crisis that offers promise for improvements," Mexico's public credit director, Mr. Angel Gurria, told Reuters in an interview.

Citicorp, the largest U.S. bank holding company, announced the loan loss provision Tuesday in the first concrete step by a U.S. bank toward recognition that billions of dollars owed by developing countries may not be repaid.

The provision would mean a loss for the company of \$2.5 billion in the second quarter and \$1 billion for all of 1987.

Mr. Gurria described the Citicorp action as an intelligent move to clear the debt debris. "It might make it tough for debtors that don't make the necessary economic adjustments, but easier for those that do," he said.

He added that the next step was for U.S. banking regulators to act in a constructive way, strict U.S. controls having hindered some banks from new lending.

Some Latin American officials said the Citicorp move could darken prospects for new loans, but they pointed out that in any case new loans had been meagre despite U.S. Treasury Secretary James Baker's call for new lending as part of his debt initiative 18

months ago. Officials from Brazil and Argentina, meanwhile, said they did not expect the Citicorp move to affect adversely their countries' continuing debt negotiations.

Brazil's Finance Minister Luiz Bresser Pereira said he still expected Citicorp, the parent of Ciobank, to disburse new loans once debt rescheduling talks were concluded.

Argentina's under-secretary for economic policy, Mr. Juan Sommer, was cautiously optimistic. "We hope the decision will not affect the disbursement of new loans that have been agreed on or that could be agreed with this country," he said.

"This is not the first time a creditor bank has made a provision," Mr. Sommer noted, but added that it ought to be taken seriously as Citicorp was one of Argentina's main creditors.

According to its 1986 annual report, Citicorp had "roughly \$4.6 billion of loans outstanding to Brazil at the end of last year, \$2.6 billion to Mexico, \$1.4 billion to Argentina and \$1 billion to Venezuela.

Banking sources said other major banks would likely follow Citicorp's lead, but some said not all banks were sufficiently strong to take a loss the size of Citicorp's.

Some foreign banking sources in Mexico City saw the Citicorp move as a way of putting further pressure on recalcitrant debtors to put their houses in order if they are to take a loss.</

## Fijian governor dissolves parliament

SUVA, Fiji (AP) — Fiji's top chiefs Friday endorsed a military coup that toppled the elected government but, in a compromise, declared that the governor-general would run the country until elections later this year.

Coup leader Lt.-Col. Sitiveni Rabuka announced that the Great Council of Chiefs, concluding three days of meetings, decided that a 10-man committee would assist Governor-General Ratu Sir Penia Ganilau in ruling the country.

Ganilau is the appointed representative of Queen Elizabeth II, the formal head of state of this former British colony.

After Col. Rabuka and other army personnel stormed parliament on May 14 and took the prime minister and his ethnic Indian-dominated cabinet hostage, Ganilau refused to swear in the coup leader's cabinet.

The governor-general insisted he, not Col. Rabuka, had the right to rule in the absence of the elected government.

The Great Council of Chiefs includes more than 60 traditional leaders who wield considerable

power and have a formal consultative role in government.

Ganilau on Friday dissolved the month-old parliament and declared all ministerial positions vacant. By doing so, he appeared to accept the overthrow of Prime Minister Timoci Bavadra, who was freed from house arrest Tuesday.

Col. Rabuka, 38, the army's third in command before the coup, has espoused a policy of "Fiji for Fijians."

He said the chiefs designated him head of the 2,000-member army and the police. He will be a member of the governing committee, and also serve on an eight-man committee reviewing the constitution, he said.

New elections will be held in about six months, he said.

Only three ethnic Indians were named to the governing and constitutional commissions.

Col. Rabuka said he carried out his coup to prevent ethnic warfare between native Fijians, who make up 47 per cent of Fiji's 715,000 people, and Indians, who comprise 49 per cent.

Since independence in 1970, the government has been in the hands of native Fijians, while commerce has been controlled by the descendants of Indian labourers brought to Fiji by the British. After his election last month, Dr. Bavadra named Fiji's first Indian-dominated cabinet.

Col. Rabuka has demanded a new constitution guaranteeing that political power remains in the hands of ethnic Fijians.

Col. Rabuka, speaking in downtown Suva to about 500 ethnic Fijians waiting in a light drizzle, said Dr. Bavadra and his deputy Harish Shamra would be offered positions on the new committee, but he did not provide details.

Also named to the committee were three cabinet ministers from the former Alliance Party government headed by Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara. Mr. Mara, who ruled Fiji since independence, was lost to Dr. Bavadra in the April 11 elections. Mr. Mara was staunchly pro-Western, while Dr. Bavadra pledged a non-aligned foreign policy.

Suva port officials said they believed Dr. Bavadra had taken refuge aboard the New Zealand frigate Wellington moored in the capital's harbour, but New Zealand officials denied this.

In Wellington, a spokesman for Prime Minister David Lange said Dr. Bavadra had not been on any New Zealand premises or property Friday and was not under New Zealand's protection, although New Zealand had previously given him shelter.

Meanwhile six Australian naval

ships have been deployed near

the island to evacuate Australians in the event of an emergency. Prime Minister Bob Hawke said

Thursday.

Mr. Hawke, in an interview, said an Australian army company was on standby in Queensland to help in any such evacuation.

But he said the present situation in Fiji did not warrant the evacuation of the few thousand

Australians there.

Gangs of Hindu youths set fires

Thursday in three areas un-

touched by the earlier clashes in

Meerut, a city of 1 million. Mus-

lims set ablaze a smaller number

of Hindu shops, police said.

The police responded by ex-

panding a curfew from about 40

per cent of the city to about 75

per cent.

More than 9,000 army troops and paramilitary police have been brought in to stem the rioting. But clashes between Hindus and Muslims were reported Thursday morning, and bricks and stones were hurled at police and troops patrolling the streets.

"There is total chaos," said S.A. Khan, commandant of the para-military Central Reserve Police Force said. "The local administration has completely failed and the mob has taken over the city."

District magistrate S.C. Saxena

detained local officials.

"Police cannot be everywhere.

These incidents happened outside the curfew-bound areas. These

are retaliatory measures," he

said.

Almost 400 people have been

arrested, according to R.S. Kausik, an official who briefed

reporters.

"It is a matter of serious con-

cern that incidents are spreading to non-curfew areas," Mr. Kausik said.

Sri Lanka smashes hideouts

in new anti-rebel offensive

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lanka's security forces have launched an offensive against Tamil separatist guerrillas and smashed rebel hideouts in their northern stronghold of Jaffna, official sources said Friday.

Among those killed in two days of fighting was the Jaffna leader of the largest rebel group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, a man known as Radha, the sources said.

Chancellor Franz Vranitzky said there is no proof Dr. Waldheim was involved in World War II atrocities.

Mr. Meese requested the meeting with Mr. Vranitzky.

Earlier this week, the Austrian

leader met with President Ronald

Reagan and Secretary of State

George Shultz, who reaffirmed

their decision to bar Dr. Waldheim despite Mr. Vranitzky's

assertions the move has cast a

shadow over relations between

the two countries.

After seeing Mr. Reagan on

Thursday, Mr. Vranitzky was

asked at a news conference if he

thought the Americans might

change their minds. "Frankly,

no," he said.

In a statement issued after the

half-hour session, Mr. Reagan

said: "I explained to the chancellor the statutory basis for the

decision. I also assured the chancellor that the United States and

Austria will remain close friends.

We both share a strong commit-

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Dr. Waldheim, a United Na-

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